METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COUPON REDEMPTION BASED ON CONNECTIVITY AND SPATIAL CONFIGURATION

BACKGROUND

[0001] Service providers and device manufacturers (e.g., wireless, cellular, electronic devices, etc.) are continually challenged to deliver value and convenience to consumers by, for example, providing compelling services in everyday lives. One area of interest has been use of coupons, and effective ways to process them. However, maintaining a record of when coupons are used or redeemed, particularly across multiple locations, can be quite challenging. For example, it can be resource intensive and burdensome for merchants or vendors to validate the coupons at the time of redemption, and then to keep track of which coupons have already been redeemed. This tracking can be used, for instance, to prevent overuse or misuse of the coupons as well as a monitor trends in purchases and coupon use. Accordingly, service providers and device manufacturers face significant technical challenges to provide efficient validation and tracking of coupon redemption or use.

SOME EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0002] Therefore, there is a need for an approach for tracking and synchronizing coupon redemption.

[0003] According to one embodiment, a method comprises determining at least one redemption record for one or more coupons at one or more redemption devices. The method further comprises determining travel time information from the one or more redemption devices to one or more other redemption devices. The method further comprises determining an update order for causing, at least in part, a synchronization of the at least one redemption record to the one or more other redemption devices based, at least in part, on the travel time information.

[0004] According to another embodiment, an apparatus comprising at least one processor, and at least one memory including computer program code for one or more programs, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause, at least in part, the apparatus to determine at least one redemption record for one or more coupons at one or more redemption devices. The apparatus is further caused to determine travel time information from the one or more redemption devices to one or more other redemption devices. The apparatus is further caused to determine an update order for causing, at least in part, a synchronization of the at least one redemption record to the one or more other redemption devices based, at least in part, on the travel time information.

[0005] According to another embodiment, a computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause, at least in part, an apparatus to determine at least one redemption record for one or more coupons at one or more redemption devices. The apparatus is further caused to determine travel time information from the one or more redemption devices to one or more other redemption devices. The apparatus is further caused to determine an update order for causing, at least in part, a synchronization of the at least one redemption record to the one or more other redemption devices based, at least in part, on the travel time information.

[0006] According to another embodiment, an apparatus comprises means for determining at least one redemption record for one or more coupons at one or more redemption devices. The apparatus further comprises means for determining travel time information from the one or more redemption devices to one or more other redemption devices. The apparatus further comprises means for determining an update order for causing, at least in part, a synchronization of the at least one redemption record to the one or more other redemption devices based, at least in part, on the travel time information.

[0007] In addition, for various example embodiments of the invention, the following is applicable: a method comprising facilitating a processing of and/or processing (1) data and/or (2) information and/or (3) at least one signal, the (1) data and/or (2) information and/or (3) at least one signal based, at least in part, on (or derived at least in part from) any one or any combination of methods (or processes) disclosed in this application as relevant to any embodiment of the invention.

[0008] For various example embodiments of the invention, the following is also applicable: a method comprising facilitating access to at least one interface configured to allow access to at least one service, the at least one service configured to perform any one or any combination of network or service provider methods (or processes) disclosed in this application.

[0009] For various example embodiments of the invention, the following is also applicable: a method comprising facilitating creating and/or facilitating modifying (1) at least one device user interface element and/or (2) at least one device user interface functionality, the (1) at least one device user interface element and/or (2) at least one device user interface functionality based, at least in part, on data and/or information resulting from one or any combination of methods or processes disclosed in this application as relevant to any embodiment of the invention, and/or at least one signal resulting from one or any combination of methods (or processes) disclosed in this application as relevant to any embodiment of the invention.

[0010] For various example embodiments of the invention, the following is also applicable: a method comprising creating and/or modifying (1) at least one device user interface element and/or (2) at least one device user interface functionality, the (1) at least one device user interface element and/or (2) at least one device user interface functionality based at least in part on data and/or information resulting from one or any combination of methods (or processes) disclosed in this application as relevant to any embodiment of the invention, and/or at least one signal resulting from one or any combination of methods (or processes) disclosed in this application as relevant to any embodiment of the invention.

[0011] In various example embodiments, the methods (or processes) can be accomplished on the service provider side or on the mobile device side or in any shared way between service provider and mobile device with actions being performed on both sides.

[0012] For various example embodiments, the following is applicable: An apparatus comprising means for performing the method of any of originally filed claims 1-20 and 36-38.

[0013] Still other aspects, features, and advantages of the invention are readily apparent from the following detailed description, simply by illustrating a number of particular embodiments and implementations, including the best mode contemplated for carrying out the invention. The invention is